

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the present amendments and the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-19 are pending. Claims 1-13, 16, 17, and 18 are amended. Support for the amendments to independent Claims 1 and 9 can be found in Fig. 8 for example. Support for the amendments to Claims 2-8, 10-13, and 16-18 is self-evident. No new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-4 and 9-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Ryosuke (Japanese Pub. No. 2003-049823, herein “Ryosuke”) in view of Sadler et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,841,635, herein “Sadler”). Claims 5-8 and 16-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Ryosuke, Sadler, and Takagi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,226,448, herein “Takagi”). Claim 15 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Ryosuke, Sadler, and Yamada et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,681,421, herein “Yamada”).

Regarding the rejection of Claims 1-4 and 9-14 as obvious over Ryosuke in view of Sadler, that rejection is respectfully traversed by the present response.

Amended independent Claim 1 recites, in part:

the stationary and rotating plates including openings extending completely through the stationary and rotating plates in a direction parallel to the axis of rotation through which openings a harness routed between the main body and rotating portion passes; and

the opening in the stationary plate and those in the rotating plates being arranged at least partially overlapping each other in the direction parallel to the axis of rotation along an angular range in which the pivotable unit is pivoted in relation to the main body the opening in the stationary plate and those in the rotating plates being eccentric to the axis of rotation.

Accordingly, the stationary and rotating plates have openings extending completely through the plates in a direction parallel to the axis of rotation. The openings overlap each other in

the direction parallel to the axis of rotation along an angular range in which the pivotable unit is pivotable in relation to the main body. The opening in the stationary plate and **the openings in the rotating plates are eccentric** to the axis of rotation. One non-limiting example of the above-noted arrangement is shown by the openings (54) and (40) in Fig. 8 of the present application.

One benefit of the above-noted arrangement is that the eccentric openings allow the spindle to pass through the center of the plates without creating a hole in the spindle (34). Therefore, the range of rotation of the harness can be increased. Additionally, the spindle can be made more simply and durably.

In contrast, Ryosuke describes wiring (121) passing through the breakthrough (109) in the **center** of the device, concentric to the device, and therefore, not eccentric to an axis of rotation of any of the plates of the device.

Similarly, Sadler suffers from the same deficiencies as discussed above regarding Ryosuke inasmuch as any opening passing completely through the components cited in the outstanding Office Action for plates is perfectly aligned with an axis of rotation (22). Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that no proper combination of Ryosuke and Sadler include all of the features recited in amended independent Claim 1.

Amended independent Claim 9 recites substantially similar features to those discussed above regarding amended independent Claim 1. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 2-4, which depend from Claim 1, and Claims 10-14, which depend from independent Claim 9, patentably distinguish over any proper combination of Ryosuke and Sadler for at least the reasons discussed above.

Regarding the rejection of Claims 5-8 and 16-19, each of these claims depends from one of amended independent Claims 1 and 9 and patentably distinguishes over any proper

combination of Ryosuke and Sadler for at least the same reasons as the respective independent claims do.

Takagi fails to remedy the deficiencies discussed above regarding Ryosuke and Sadler with respect to the amended independent claims. Rather, Takagi fails to disclose an eccentric hole passing completely through rotating plates or stationary plates and through which a harness passes as recited in amended independent Claims 1 and 9. Accordingly, no proper combination of Ryosuke, Sadler, and Takagi would include all of the features recited in either of amended independent Claims 1 or 9 or any of the claims depending therefrom. Rather, Takagi, as shown in Fig. 12, merely provides a central, non-eccentric hole for the flexible cable (79) to pass.

Regarding the rejection of Claim 15 as obvious over Ryosuke, Sadler, and Yamada, that rejection is respectfully traversed by the present response.

The outstanding Office Action relies on Yamada for the feature of a double-side printed circuit board.¹ However, Yamada is devoid of rotary or stationary plates, much less, rotary or stationary plates with eccentric holes passing completely therethrough and including a harness as recited in amended independent Claim 9, from which Claim 15 depends. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that no proper combination of Ryosuke, Sadler, and Yamada would include all of the features recited in amended independent Claim 9 or Claim 15 depending therefrom.

Applicants wish to make the following additional remarks regarding dependent Claim 13, which recites:

The imaging device according to claim 12, wherein the flexible printed circuit board is a ribbon and includes a portion bent with a predetermined curvature and is folded back between the openings in the stationary and rotating plates where the bent portions overlap each other.

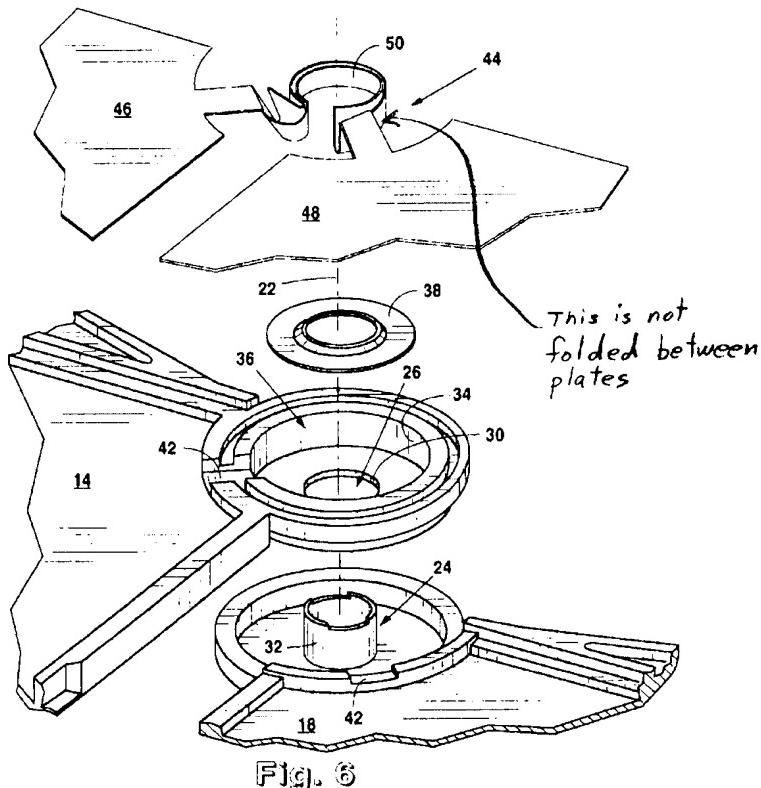
¹ Outstanding Office Action, page 11.

Accordingly, the flexible printed circuit board is a ribbon. The circuit board includes a portion bent with a predetermined curvature. The circuit board is folded back between the openings in the stationary and rotating plates where the bent portions overlap each other.

The outstanding Office Action cites Sadler for the features of Claim 13, stating:

Sadler further discloses wherein the flexible printed circuit board has a portion bent in plane with a predetermined curvature and is folded back between the openings in the stationary and rotating plates where the bent portions overlap each other (see figure 6, item 50).²

However, as shown in the annotated copy of figure 6 from Sadler provided below, item (50) is not folded back between the openings in the stationary and rotating plates where bent portions overlap each other as recited in Claim 13. Rather, **item (50) is the center of a concentric arrangement of the two portions of the keyboard and is not folded between the two portions.**



² Outstanding Office Action, page 7.

Accordingly, as shown above, Sadler's item does not correlate to the circuit board folded back between the openings in the stationary and rotating plates where the bent portions overlap each other recited in dependent Claim 13, and Claim 13 further patentably distinguishes over any proper combination of the cited references for the additional reasons discussed above.

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance for Claims 1-19 is earnestly solicited.

Should Examiner Le deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, Examiner Le is encouraged to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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